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(71) Applicant: Hewlett-Packard Company
Palo Alto, California 94304 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• Brink, Gregory D.
McMinnville, OR 97128 (US)

• Benvegar, Carl E.
McMinnville, OR 97128 (US)
• Ochs, Dennis E.
Seattle, WA 98121-1045 (US)
• Andrews, Jonathan N.
Monmouth, OR 97361 (US)

(74) Representative: Colgan, Stephen James et al
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD
43 Bloomsbury Square
London WC1A 2RA (GB)

(54) Battery having a battery mailbox for exchanging information

(57) A battery (30), usable with one or more battery support units (20) and/or electronic devices (80), contains a memory (40) which contains a mailbox (50). The battery receives a request from a battery support unit or an electronic device to write error data (51) in the mailbox. In response to this request, the battery stores the

error data in the mailbox. The battery then receives a request from a battery support unit or electronic device to read the error data from the mailbox. In response to this request, the battery transmits the error data to the battery support unit or electronic device that requested it.

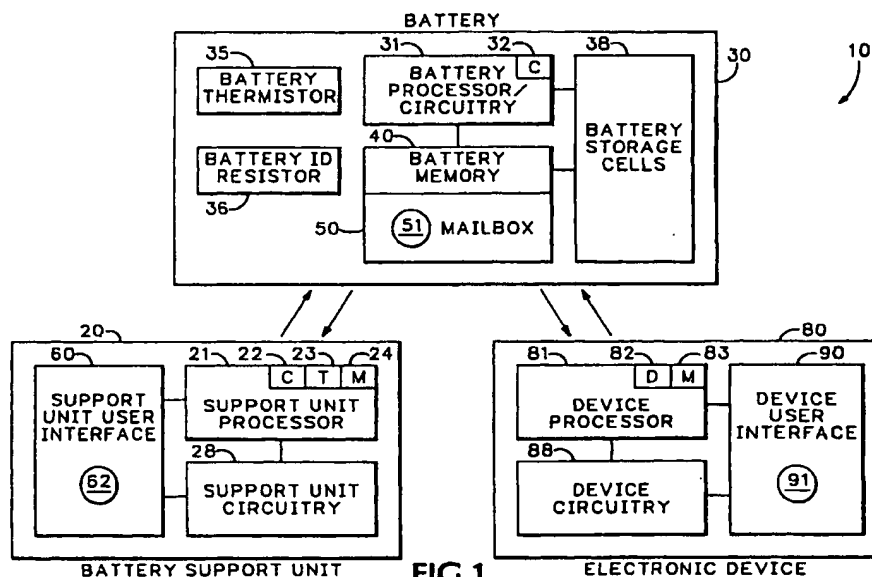


FIG.1

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 96 30 3270
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
| X | EP-A-0 523 526 (SIEMENS AG) 20 January 1993 * abstract; claim 8; figures * * column 1, line 14 - line 15 * * column 1, line 34 - line 35 * * column 3, line 10 - line 25 * --- | 1-10 | G01R31/36 H01M10/48 |
| X | EP-A-0 623 828 (ALSTHOM CGE ALCATEL) 9 November 1994 * abstract; claims 6-9; figures 2,3 * * page 2, line 49 - line 51 * * page 3, line 15 - line 18 * * page 3, line 26 * * page 3, line 43 - line 46 * --- | 1-10 | |
| X | WO-A-92 22099 (MOTOROLA INC) 10 December 1992 * page 3, line 16 - line 18 * * page 7, line 8 - line 13; figure 4 * * page 8, line 34 * * page 9, line 1 - line 20 * --- -/-- | 1-10 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| | | | G01R |
| INCOMPLETE SEARCH | | | |
| <p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely: 1-4,6,7</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely: 5,8-10</p> <p>Claims not searched:</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>Claims refer to non-existing claims or reference is obscure.</p> | | | |
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EP 0 743 532 A3 (1997) (P)



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EP 96 30 3270

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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
| X | US-A-4 885 523 (KOENCK STEVEN E) 5 December 1989 * abstract; claims 1,2,10,11; figures 12,23-27 * * column 2, line 34 - column 3, line 7 * * column 3, line 53 - line 57 * * column 13, line 64 - column 14, line 12 * --- | 1,6,7 | |
| A | US-A-4 302 714 (YEFSKY SHELDON A) 24 November 1981 * abstract; figures * --- | 1,7 | |
| X | EP-A-0 622 863 (SONY CORP) 2 November 1994 * page 3, line 28 - line 40; figures 2,8 * * page 4, line 26 - line 29 * * page 8, line 2 - line 14 * * page 18, line 1 - page 19, line 35; table 7 * --- | 1,6,7 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| A | DE-A-42 21 513 (SANYO ELECTRIC CO) 11 February 1993 * abstract; figures 2,3 * ----- | 1,6,7 | |

EPO FORM 1503 03/89 (P04C10)